

Earlier this year, I was in a car accident after a snow storm came through my area. I was in between cities, and couldn't get cell phone signal to call for help. There are a lot of rural areas that are like that where I live. Many are being plugged, but it's tough to get coverage in the mountains. We have several different carriers available, but they all have dead spots.

Please help improve the lives of rural Americans by protecting and expanding the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless providers. Wireless telecommunications is no longer a luxury in our society; it is a fundamental necessity for public health, safety and economic development.

Capping the fund will shut the door on rural America. Less USF support for rural wireless networks will leave us with poor coverage, dropped calls and dangerous dead zones. The urban/rural technology gap will only widen.

Rural America deserves the same cell phone service as our big cities. I urge you to expand – not cap – the USF. Please don't leave us behind. Being stuck on the side of the road in another car crash without a way to call for help is not my cup of tea.

Thank you.
Matthew Squires